

CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

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September, 1999

Fire, drought, wind storms wreak havoc with CT golf courses

Crisis in Northeast

By Bob Chalifour, CGCS

The extended drought in the northeast has put abnormally high pressure on most everyone. Water source and distribution problems have brought new innovations (and headaches).

Some of the problems and solutions have been quite creative. John Creevy, superintendent at New London CC, was able to hook up to a fire hydrant in order to bring his pond up to

capacity. John said that the local fire department was very cooperative helping out with his dilemma.

Many courses have had to eliminate fairway irrigation. Tom Rodden, superintendent at Glastonbury Hills CC, was able to fill his holding pond from

a stream 1 1/4 miles away with the help of state and local agencies, homeowners and a local farmer. Tom used the newly developed high density polyethylene pipe that can be welded or coupled. Surprisingly, the stream

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Kevin Bengtson, Supt. at Indian Hill CC, standing next to 8th rough uproot which ripped out drainage pipe



Anthony Grosso
1999 CAGCS President

I don't know how everyone else feels, but isn't this summer ever going to end? I'm getting pretty tired of watching turf die, whether it be from bacteria wilt, heat stress, summer patch, drought conditions, or no water. I don't care...it's getting old!

Not only have we had to deal with the worst drought conditions on record for Connecticut, but we have also had to deal with 24 days (and counting) with temperatures in the 90s. Couple that with the high humidity and you

President's message

can understand why we're all stressed out and in foul moods.

There are many scary stories circulating out there about what many of us have had to endure this summer, but the good news is that it's the middle of August and all we have to do is hold on for another two weeks or so. Let's hope that by the time this issue of the *Clippings* is sent out, we have all begun to start to breathe a little easier and seed a lot more.

I want to take a minute and congratulate Peter Pierson and John Motycka

for putting together another outstanding Invitational Tournament which was held on July 26th at Ellington Ridge.

Finally, I would just like to remind everyone that, thanks to our office staff, CAGCS has scored a block of rooms in New Orleans at the headquarters hotel, the New Orleans Marriott. Any member wishing to secure a room should contact the CAGCS office as soon as possible. The rooms will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

Note to all Class A & B Members

Do you play golf at our monthly meetings? Do you attend our educational seminars? Have you made life-long friendships with your peers from our association?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we can use your help. We are always looking for individuals to serve on our Board of Directors.

On November 4th, CAGCS will hold its annual meeting and election of officers. Anyone interested in running for the Board of Directors is urged to contact me (860/826-3519) before September 21st. If you would rather begin by serving on a committee, please give me a call.

John Napier, CGCS
Nominating Chairperson

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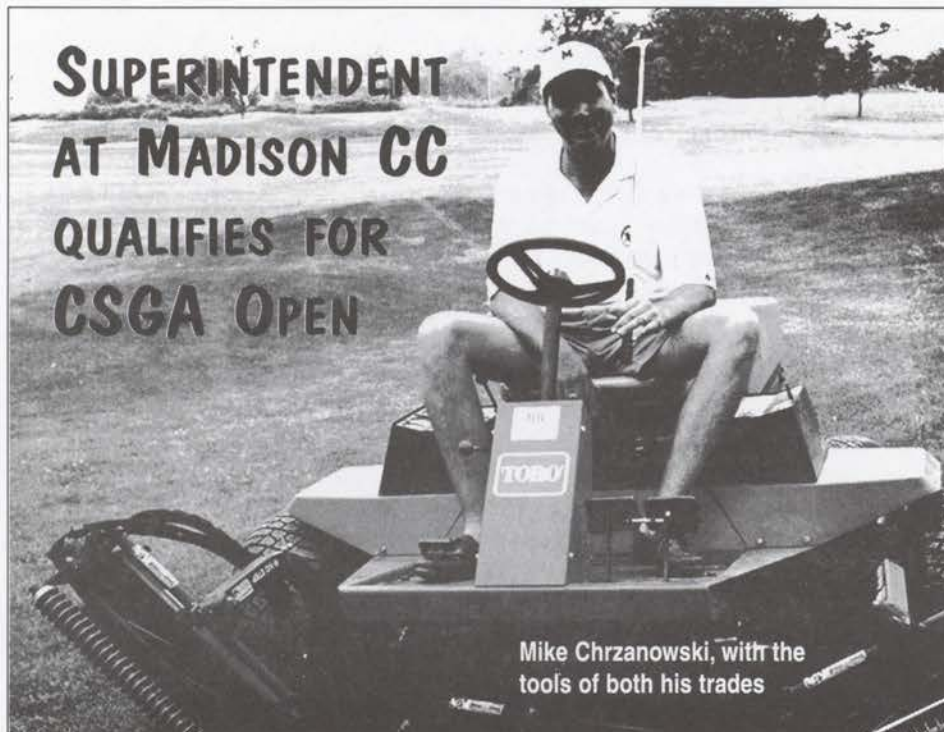
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SUPERINTENDENT AT MADISON CC QUALIFIES FOR CSGA OPEN



Mike Chrzanowski, with the tools of both his trades

Mike Chrzanowski, Superintendent at Madison CC

On June 28th, the day began like any other work day for Mike Chrzanowski, CAGCS member since 1980. He arrived at the country club about 5:15 a.m. in time to see the first light of daybreak spread across the course. It was going to be a hot and muggy Tuesday with a strong likelihood of afternoon thunderstorms.

Mike felt an extra twinge of excitement as he went about his morning routine. As the golf course superintendent at Madison CC, he was proud of the condition of the grounds at the private club on the shore of Long Island Sound, and was eager for the day's field of amateur and professional golfers to test it.

More than 100 golfers would begin teeing off in an hour or so in a qualifying round for the CSGA Connecticut Open Championship.

Mike checked to see that everyone on his crew of 14 had shown up for work and that none of the machinery was on the blink. He then sent the crew out to mow the fairways, double-

cut and roll the greens, and place the cups according to the hole-location sheet that CSGA officials had given him weeks before. He had avoided placing the holes anywhere near those locations in recent days so the greens would be as smooth as possible.

There was more to Mike's excitement, though, as he watched his crew go off to work. He was more than the golf course superintendent today. He was a competitor, too.

"At about 6 o'clock, my whole mind set changed," Mike said.

Mike, 43, is a four-handicapper at Madison and the reigning club champion. With the Open qualifying to be held at his home course, he figured he'd give tournament golf another try.

He had attempted to qualify for both the CSGA Amateur and Open back in 1991, but hadn't made the cut. But Madison club professional Mickey Hawkes convinced him that it was time to try again.

Mike, who lives in Killingworth with his wife, Kathy, and children,

Mike and Amy, has been around golf since he was a teenage caddie at the Golf Club of Aspetuck, now the Connecticut Golf Club in Easton. He got his degree in turf from the University of Massachusetts and has been at Madison for 20 years.

Mike didn't waste the opportunity to qualify on his home course. He had three birdies and four bogeys for one-over par 71 and was one of 26 to qualify from the Madison CC competition for the Open Championship which was played Aug. 2 and 3 at Wee Burn CC.

Unfortunately, Mike failed to qualify.

Congratulations, Mike, on a great showing.

Reprinted from The Connecticut Golfer, publication of the CSGA, July, 1999, issue.

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Crisis in northeast

(continued from page 1)

showed no effect from the amount of water drawn off.

Kevin D'Amico, superintendent at Westwoods GC is having an ongoing battle with a local beaver family that keeps damming up his source.

Richard Lombardi, superintendent at Midville GC in West Warwick, RI, was without water for three days. Richard had 20,000 cu.yds. of material removed from his ponds and was able to hook up to a municipal source to fill his pond.

Kevin Bengtson, superintendent at Indian Hills CC, had his hands full when a tornado touched down and caused severe damage, including uprooting of trees (one over 350 years old), damage to bridges, and ripping out drainage pipe.

Irrigation dealers, installers, designers, well drillers and dredgers' telephones are ringing off the hook. If it is not a supply problem, then it is distribution. Course managers that thought about irrigation and supply upgrades are now finding out where their weaknesses lie.

Those of you with good water supplies and systems are a minority. Have you hugged your irrigation system lately?

When you get a chance for a breather from this year's stress, please let the *Clippings* staff know about some of your problems and solutions so that we can pass the information along to the membership.



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CAGCS Scholarship & Research

S & R Tournament - October 4th Clinton Country Club

by Dan Rackliffe, CGCS
S & R Chairperson

The year for S & R will culminate at the annual Scholarship & Research Tournament at Clinton Country Club on October 4th. This year has been a successful one in that we have participated in the funding of pertinent turf-grass research and have provided 19 deserving young men and women with modest scholarships to help with their continuing education.

Among these 19 individuals were two memorial scholarship recipients, Joseph Fabrizio who works at Orange Hills CC, and Mike Sullivan who works at Wampanoag CC.

CAGCS scholarships were awarded to:

P. David Basconi, Marla and Kara Beck, Mike Chrzanowski, Jacob Dudzik, Christopher Dumas, Michelle Gauvain, Britta Johnson, Rory Lavery, Val Loper, III, Jeffrey May-Stahl, Peter McDermott, Kimberly Moore, David Oleksiw, Lauren Pakkala, & Peter Rappoccio

The second annual Dr. C. Richard Skogley Scholarship was awarded to Alan Vibber, who is an honors graduate from Enrico Fermi High School.

Among Alan's achievements were National Honor Society, award for Who's Who Among American High School Students, Captain of both the soccer and track teams and he was awarded the Eagle Scout Merit Badge, the Boy Scouts Association's highest

honor. Alan will be attending the University of Rhode Island, majoring in Chemical Engineering.

At this year's S & R Tournament, we will be holding our first annual benefit raffle. This raffle was originated to help raise additional monies for scholarships while trying not to put an additional financial burden on our membership.

If you have any questions or comments about this raffle, please contact me — input is always appreciated.

We have kept the cost of the S & R Tournament the same as last year. We must insist, however, that if a reservation is not canceled before Sept. 24 and you or our committee cannot find a replacement, you must pay for that

space. We routinely have a waiting list and must deny spots for those desiring to play. If you must cancel, please do so in a timely manner.

All superintendents have just received a memo from the S & R Committee asking that they seek out their golf professionals in hopes for a contribution, whether it be in cash or in kind. As soon as you know what the donation will be, please be sure to send along the form that was sent to you. This will give us enough time to make arrangements to pick up the item(s) if necessary.

Otherwise, you can bring the item(s) to the meeting at Pautipaug on September 27, or bring it along with you to the S & R Tournament.

In any event, it is important that we know ahead of time so we may prepare accordingly.

Help Wanted

S & R Committee is looking for a member to help at the tournament with the putting green contest. Call Dan 203/341-5072 if interested.



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Team from Oak Lane CC, Larry Dodge, Supt., takes home 1999 CAGCS Invitational Trophy

On July 26th, Ellington Ridge CC hosted the CAGCS Annual Invitational Tournament. Twenty-seven teams gathered for the event which was sponsored by the Bruedan Corporation for the third year in a row.

David Vibber, golf course superintendent, and his staff presented a facility that was in wonderful condition. We all know what a struggle the weather has been this year, and David must be commended for the course conditions. The flowers and landscaping around the course and the clubhouse were like icing on the cake.

The team from **Oak Lane CC** has regularly had strong teams at our invitationals and this year was no different.

Pictured above right is the winning team comprising of **Larry Dodge, supt., Jim Uberti, Wayne Garrick and Mike Grammalis** who took home the Invitational Trophy by shooting a 64 gross.



Other Invitational Results

2nd Gross - 68 (match of cards)

Twin Hills CC (Mike McDermott, Supt., Randy Holmes, Mike Yankowski, John Nowobilski)

3rd Gross - 68 (match of cards)

Highfield CC (Chris Mauro, Supt., Bill Murray, John Swanson, Dusty Tuttle)

1st Net - 59

Norwich GC (Bruce Morse, Supt. Robert Ford, Dave Clang, John Paesani)

2nd Net - 60 (match of cards)

Race Brook CC (John Gallagher, Supt., Ted Hopovich, Jim Sheehy, John Walsh)

3rd Net - 60 (match of cards)

E. Gaynor Brennan Municipal GC
(Mike Sullivan, Supt., Steve Buckett, Mickey Docimo, Angela Aulenti)

Twin Hills CC (pictured above left) 2nd gross team

Norwich CC (pictured left) 1st low net team

As you can see from the results posted above, it was a struggle to bring in a winning score. Most of our winners were determined by maching of cards.

See insert for more invitational highlights!

River Ridge and Shennecossett Golf Courses recently featured in *The Day* (New London, CT).

River Ridge, the new golf course built by CAGCS members, Joe and Charlie Rustici, in Preston, CT, was given rave reviews for its maturity, scenic views and challenging golf holes. Charlie and Joe have done a great job with this course.

When in the area, stop by and take a look. The course is located in Preston on Rt. 164. At exit 85 on Rt. 395 take Rt. 164 south for 1/2 mile and the course is on the right.

Shennecossett was featured twice. One article was about summer employment that benefits those that are on vacation. An ongoing series

found the reporter tagging along with employees for awhile. It is amazing how the changing of the holes on the greens fascinates those that have never seen it done. A detailed description of this procedure comprised much of the article.

Another article featured Shennecossett's #16 as one of the the "Dream 18" by WFSB, Channel 3 because of its panoramic view of Long Island Sound, New London and offshore islands.

WFSB Channel 3's "Dream 18"

The remaining "Dream 18 holes" chosen by Channel 3 were:

Tallwood CC #17
TPC at River Highlands #16 & 17
Patton Brook CC #17

Rolling Greens GC #6
Yale GC #9
Tower Ridge CC #6
New Haven CC #11
Richter Park GC #12
Ellington Ridge #18
Manchester CC #6
Torrington CC #18
Wethersfield CC #16
Hartford GC #7
Stanley GC #7 Blue
GC of Avon #1
Tumble Brook CC #17.

Unfortunately, Shennecossett was removed from the Donald Ross registry because of the changes made. I am sure if Donald Ross had the waterfront property to work with, he would have utilized it. Unfortunately, over zealous egos of the architect Mark Mangeaum and Lee d'Lisle, Director of Recreation, changed three other holes, but not for the better.

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Oak Lane - Woodbridge
Old Lyme C.C. - Old Lyme
Pine Orchard C.C. - Branford
Portland West - Portland
Portland Golf Course - Portland
Quarry Ridge - Portland
Shuttle Meadow - Kensington
Silver Springs - Ridgefield
Southington C.C. - Southington
T.P.C. - Cromwell
The Patterson Club - Fairfield
Tumblebrook - Bloomfield
Watertown Golf Course - Watertown
Westwood Golf Course - Farmington
Woodbridge C.C. - Woodbridge
Woodway C.C. - Darien
The Orchard - Milford

Grass



Catcher

Welcome new members

Joseph Fabrizio, Class C
Orange Hills CC

Michael Griswold, Class C
Skungamaug River GC

Richard Gunn, Class C
Richter Park GC

Jim Santoro, Class Commercial
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* * * * *

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mapquest.com
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* * * * *

Joe Bidwell of Valley Farms Nursery & Supply is looking to buy a set of gang mowers 860/658-6886.

Congratulations to Frank Savakis and his wife, Marie, on the birth of their son, Frank, Jr.

* * * * *

Charles Henry Allen, Jr., 87, owner of **Allen Seed Store** recently died at his home. He was the husband of Barbara (Downs) Allen.

Mr. Allen had been a turf research foreman at URI for 30 years, retiring in 1967. While at URI, he was the first person to develop a selective crab-grass killer and he discovered Exeter Colonial Bentgrass.

He was a member of the Rhode Island GCSA and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 1997.

* * * * *

Room block New Orleans

CAGCS has secured a block of 30 rooms at the New Orleans Marriott for the conference and show in February.

There are only a few rooms remaining and are being distributed on a first-

come, first-served basis.

Call the CAGCS office to get a form.

* * * * *

—Twenty years ago —

Somehow it always seems that the weather is the number one topic at meetings, tournaments and yes, even newsletters.

Well, dear Mother Nature has done it to us this year. August was so hot and humid that pythium abounded where it never was seen before. For a time, SP was as precious as gold. September brought the monsoons creating unworkable quagmires where golf courses once stood. Then came October, a devastating tornado, 4" of rain in an hour and a half in some areas, and for the frosting, 3" of snow on the 10th. Anyone for Indian Summer?

CAGCS held its 50th anniversary party at Tumble Brook CC (Dave Stimson and Fred Bachand, chairmen).

Bob Osterman was nominated for GCSAA Director.

* * * * *

CAGCS Annual Christmas Party December 17th

* * * * *

Deadline for December *Clippings* is November 7th.

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Dogs of summer



James MacDonald, pictured here with "Putter", a 6-year old golden lab (a gift from his son, Brian) who has been working hard harrasing geese at the New Haven CC.

Both Putter and Jim are well liked and appreciated by the membership at New Haven CC. Jim has been the superintendent at New Haven for 30 years. Prior to New Haven, Jim was the superintendent at The Country Club in Brooklin, MA.

Jim has been a member of CAGCS for 30 years and has served on the board as Treasurer.

Monthly meeting golf results

June 22 - Grassy Hill CC

A Division

- 1st - M. Dukette - 72
2nd - G. Moore - 76

B Division

- 1st - M. Chevrier - 86
2nd M. Sullivan - 88

C Division

- 1st - A. Baviello - 90
2nd - R. Hosking - 92

D Division

- 1st - M. Faherty - 99
2nd - M. Wallace - 102

Team Net

- 1st - McDermott/Hosking 142
2nd - Deubel/Motycka 144
3rd - Chevrier/Malay 144
4th - DiVito/Neaton 145
5th - S. Moran/Bengtson 146

Kickers

- E. Johnson, W. Palumbo,
R. Welch, R. Cook &
C. Wallace

Skins

- #5 - M. Dukette (4)
#6 - P. Pierson (2)
#7 - R. Hetherington (2)
#11 - M. Chevrier (3)
#13 A. La Prise (1)

August 4 - Tunxis Plantation

Hot Ball - 64

- Tom Olovson, Ray Hetherington
Jeff Huie, Dick Blakeslee

1st Low Gross - 68

- Frank Lamphier, Peter Pierson
Richard Gunn, Matt Faherty

1st Low Net - 52

- Scott Gennings, John Callahan,
Kevin D'Amico, Tim Gerzabek

2nd Low Net - 53

- John Napier, Dan Shay,
Steve Roberts, Stan Hildreth

3rd Low Net - 57

- Dick Cook, Sean Moran,
Phil Neaton, Brian Skelly

CAGCS would like to thank the Tomasso Brothers of Tunxis Plantation, for inviting our retired and life members to attend at no charge for the day.

It was great fun to see Ed Anderson, Charlie Babcock (also our host superintendent), Joe Bidwell, Gary Bryant, Dick Cook, Lewis Dziedzic, Paul Ladzinski, Jr. & Frank Lamphier

Calendar of Events

Sept. 18th - CAGCS Family Day
Lake Compounce
Southington, CT

Sept. 24th - 33rd Ryder Cup Matches
The Country Club, Brookline, MA
(Note: Only Class A & B members of the NEGCSA and Course Managers of Cape Cod along with their spouses will be extended complimentary tournament admission.)

Sept. 27th - Pautipaug CC
Anthony Grosso, Supt.
President's Cup &
McLaughlin Trophy

Sept. 28th - RI Turfgrass Foundation
1st Annual Noel Jackson Research
Fellowship Golf Tournament
Misquamicut Club, Watch Hill, RI
(Bill Morton, CGCS 401/348-8114)

October 4th - CAGCS Annual
S & R Tournament
Clinton CC
Michael Decker, Supt.

October 19th - Oak Lane CC
Lawrence Dodge, Supt.
Supt./Ass't. Tournament

November 8th - Old Lyme CC
Brian Skelly, Supt.
CAGCS Annual Meeting

December 17th - Annual CAGCS
Christmas Party
Grassy Hill CC, Orange, CT

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* October 25th

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Changes in the Stockbridge Turfgrass Management Program Cooperative Work Training

Dr. Gail L. Schumann and Dr. Scott Ebdon

Changes effective September, 1999

Over the past year, the faculty who teach in the Stockbridge Turf Management Program have worked closely with the UMASS Turfgrass Program Advisory Board, additional professional turfgrass managers, and Stockbridge Director Nancy Garrabrants to revise and improve the turfgrass management curriculum. These changes go into effect with the incoming class of students in September, 1999.

One of the most significant changes was to shorten the cooperative work training to allow more classroom time. We hope that the increased classwork will improve the academic preparation of the turf students to meet the higher demands of today's working environment and will offset the disadvantages of less time as a summer intern.

Luckily, most Stockbridge turf students come to the program with considerable work experience. Those who work on golf courses also will probably have supervision by a superintendent for several years following their cooperative work training.

The turf faculty are working together to supervise the cooperative work training assignments. We would like to receive position listings by **November 15** each year, so students can make their requests known to the faculty before the end of the fall semester.

We strongly recommend that they do their cooperative work training at a work location **DIFFERENT FROM**

where they have previously worked, so they can observe a different management approach.

The faculty will meet during the winter semester break to make the assignments which will be made known to students when they return to school at the end of January. Students will then contact their assigned supervisor to determine if they will be accepted by the supervisor. If the assignment is not acceptable to all parties, students will return to the turf faculty for reassignment.

All cooperative work training position descriptions should be sent to the Stockbridge School Office and will be placed in a notebook for students in the Stockbridge office. For \$15 you may have your listing on the Stockbridge school website (www/umass.edu/stockbridge) and in the notebook for students. The listing form is on the website whenever you need it in the "jobs" section.

One of the biggest changes will be the starting date change. Students can begin their training following the end of classes. In spring, 2000, classes end on Thursday, May 11, so students could start working on Monday, May 15.

All of us who participated in the curriculum revision considered the problems and inconveniences for both students and employers before we established these changes. We feel strongly that the benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

Stockbridge *(continued)*

We will monitor the effects of the changes and modify the program in the future as needed. In the meantime, we welcome your comments and suggestions on both the academic and cooperative work training changes and look forward to working with all of you to continue to improve the Stockbridge Turf Management Program.

The program would not be possible without your valuable instruction and supervision of our student interns.

We send our appreciation to all of you who accommodate these students in your workplace and help prepare them for their future professional careers.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns:

Dr. Gail Schumann 413/545-3413

Dr. Scott Ebdon 413/545-2506

Ms. Nancy Garrabrants, Director,
Stockbridge School 413/545-2222

Important Information

November 15, 1999

Cooperative work training listings must be available in the Stockbridge Office. See Stockbridge website to get the form used for website listings (www.umass.edu/stockbridge/jobs)

Mail to:

Stockbridge School of Agriculture
Stockbridge Hall Rm. 115
University of Massachusetts
at Amherst
Amherst, MA 01003

May 15, 2000

Students are available to start summer cooperative work training.

Recommended information for cooperative work training positions:

- ✓ company name, address, phone, fax, email address, website address
- ✓ Contact person
- ✓ If golf course: number of holes, public/private
- ✓ Job description and responsibilities
- ✓ Special opportunities such as construction or design project requirements/qualification
- ✓ wage/salary/benefits (e.g. housing)
- ✓ application requirements (resume/cover letter, etc.)
- ✓ application deadline.

Here is one to ponder:

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints; we earn more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less well-being.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values; we talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often; we've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor; we've conquered outer space, but not inner space; we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; we've split the atom, but not our prejudice.

We have higher incomes, but lower morals; we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are the times of tall men, and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships. These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare; more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition. These are days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to make a difference, or to just hit delete...

Author unknown

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We would like to acknowledge Turf-Seed, Inc. and Tee-2-Green Corp. for their contributions through this philanthropic program.

Ambassador speakers program expands

GCSAA, the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) and Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) have expanded the Ambassador Speakers Program in 1999. The joint outreach program prepares industry representatives to educate the public about the green industry's environmental benefits and address consumer requests for information.

This program now includes 56 participants consisting of 29 GCSAA members and 27 PLCAA members and has expanded to include northern California.

Ambassadors, consisting of golf course superintendents, lawn care operators and pesticide suppliers are available to speak to civic groups, schools and related organizations within their communities.

CAGCS members involved in the program are: Robert Chalifour, CGCS (Ret.), Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS, Tim O'Neill, CGCS, and Peter Pierson.

Betsy Demoret is the Ambassador Coordinator, and can be reached at 888/877-1042.

Pequot Golf Course maintenance building burns

Only 20 minutes after leaving the maintenance building on Friday, July 9, smoke was seen from the first tee. The fire quickly wiped out the maintenance building at Pequot Golf Club.

Superintendent, Mike Mooney, reported that all but a few pieces of equipment were lost along with about \$30,000 worth of pesticides. Mike also stated that if he had been able to move into his newly constructed building on time, all of the equipment would have been saved.

During the past two years, Bob Tobin and the other owners have made numerous equipment upgrades. Mike

wants to thank superintendents, Dean O'Lari, Stonington CC, Anthony Grosso, CAGCS president and superintendent at Pauti-paug CC, and Brian Pope of Turf Products Corp. who were helpful in loaning equipment to help keep maintenance schedules running smoothly.

No time is a good time for a fire—but, 4th of July week along with the worst drought in years, is devastating.



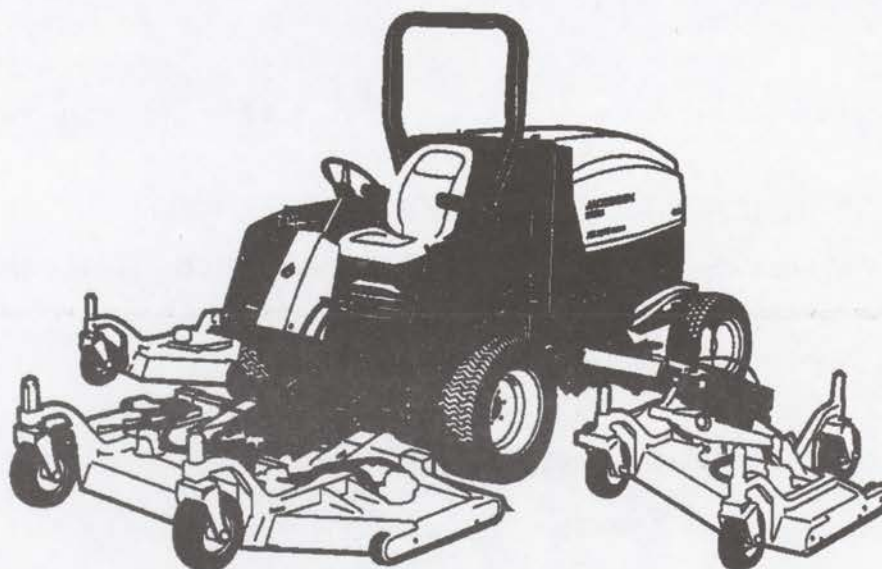
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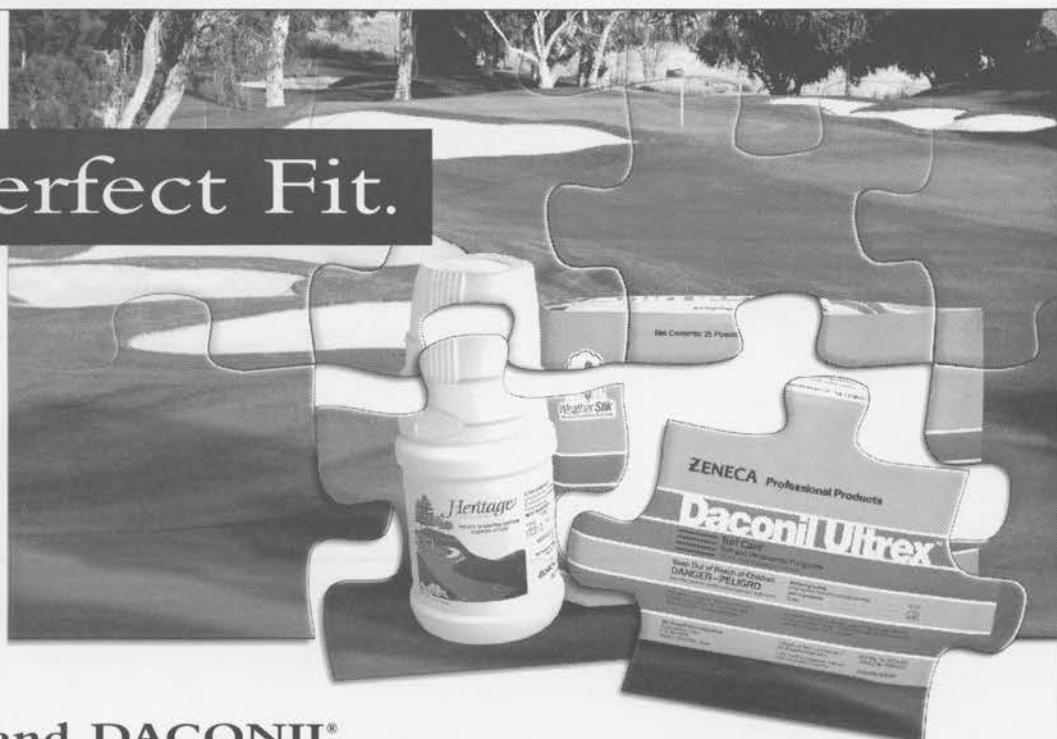


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